2.00 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at three minutes past one of the clock. The House re-assembled after lunch at three minutes past two of the clock,

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) in the Chair.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE *(Contd.)*

Report of NC RLM (Volumes I and II)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Report of the National Commission for Religious Linguistic Minorities (NCRLM) (Volumes I and II).

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, what about the Action Taken Report of the Government? When will it be laid?

The Rubber (Amendment) Bill, 2009 ***(Contd.)***

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, we will continue with the discussion on the Rubber (Amendment) Bill, 2009. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ (Maharashtra): Sir, if you permit me, I want to raise two points.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Is it on a point of order?

SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: We have just got Part II of the Parliamentary Bulletin, which says that the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Amendment) Bill will be passed without discussion. I have no objection to anybody getting more salary because I myself am getting a lot of salary. But why should it be passed without discussion?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): You cannot raise it now. You raise it when that subject is taken up. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Minister wants to say something. Kindly sit down.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Sir, the hon. Member has chosen to raise that point. Let me make one thing very clear. The Amendment Bill does not relate to any increase in the salary or perks. There is only one discrepancy because there is a disparity between the air journeys which an hon. Member as a Member of Parliament gets and the air journeys he would get if he were to get into the Government; he may not have those. So, there was some mistake somewhere. It is only to rectify that.

So far as the other thing is concerned, I am sure the hon. Member is aware of this, that any decision which is taken by the Business Advisory Committee is not discussed in that way. It was the Business Advisory Committee which said since the letter relates only to that one simple point – it is not the enhancement of any salary or perks–it need not be discussed. That is all that was said. I thought it better to clarify that point.